

GALLICREX CINEREA (Gm.); Eagle Clarke, Ibis, 1894, p. 535.

Nests in the long grass, but is not common. Native name "Manugtul."

The specimen sent was shot in a field of young cane on the 8th of April, 1899.

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XIX.—*Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club.*

Nos. LXVII.—LXIX.

No. LXVII. (December 30th, 1899).

THE sixty-sixth Meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 13th of December, 1899. *Chairman*: P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S. Twenty-five Members and five guests were present.

THE CHAIRMAN referred in feeling terms to the loss which ornithological science had sustained by the death of Dr. A. C. Stark, who had been killed by a shell during the recent fighting at Ladysmith in Natal, whither he had repaired to render medical aid to the wounded soldiers.

A vote of condolence to the relatives of the deceased naturalist was unanimously passed by the Meeting.

DR. BOWDLER SHARPE also alluded to the untimely death of Colonel Henry P. Northcott, during the first battle on the Modder River. A list of the birds obtained by the deceased officer in the hinterland of the Gold Coast had recently appeared in the 'Bulletin' (see above, p. 183).

THE HON. WALTER ROTHSCHILD, M.P., exhibited a pair of the rare *Eupetes geislerorum*, A. B. Meyer.

This species had been described from German New Guinea by Dr. Meyer, and had not before been seen in any English collection, having hitherto been known only from the types in the Dresden Museum. It was remarkable for the different colour of the sexes; and examples collected by

Mr. A. S. Meek at Collingwood Bay, in the northern portion of British New Guinea, were laid on the table.

Mr. E. HARTERT described a new species of Weaver-Finch from Equatorial Africa as follows :—

PYTELIA ANSORGEI, sp. n.

♂ *ad.* Upper surface yellowish olive, rather greener on the wings; head black; quills blackish, externally olive-green; tail-feathers black, the outer ones rather more greyish black, the central feathers edged with green towards the base; breast, abdomen, and under tail-coverts dark grey, the sides of the chest yellowish olive; under wing-coverts and inner margins of quills white.

*Hab.* Wemo River, Torn, Uganda Protectorate (*Dr. Ansorge*).

*Obs.* The nearest ally is apparently *Pytelia sharpei*, but the black head and other differences in the plumage easily distinguish this new species.

Mr. HARTERT also pointed out that, although Dr. Bowdler Sharpe was undoubtedly right in recognizing three forms of small *Melittophagi* in Africa, in contrast to the opinion of Mr. Dresser with respect to *M. pusillus* and its allies, there could be no doubt that the former author had misapplied the name of *M. cyanostictus*, Cab., in the 'Catalogue of Birds.' The bird called *M. meridionalis* by Dr. Sharpe was in fact the true *M. cyanostictus* of Cabanis, as Mr. Hartert had ascertained from a careful comparison of the original description and from a personal examination of the type in the Berlin Museum. He therefore proposed for the East African bird, *M. cyanostictus*, Sharpe et auct. (nec Cabanis), the amended name of

MELITTOPHAGUS SHARPEI.

Further notes on these species of Bee-eater would be published in an early part of the 'Novitates Zoologicae.'

Mr. F. D. GODMAN forwarded the descriptions of two apparently new species of Peruvian birds :—

## XENOPIPO SUBALARIS, sp. n.

♂ *ad.* Similis *X. atronitenti*, sed subalaribus et axillaribus niveis distinguenda. Long. tot. 4·9 poll., culm. 0·5, alæ 3·0, caudæ 1·95, tarsi 0·6.

♀ *ad.* Similis ♀ *X. atronitenti*, sed obscurior, sordidè olivascenti-viridis, abdomine minimè flavicanti, et subalaribus niveis distinguenda. Long. tot. 5·0 poll., culm. 0·55, alæ 2·8, caudæ 1·9, tarsi 0·6.

*Hab.* Guayabamba, N. Peru (*O. T. Baron*).

## COLUMBA VINA, sp. n.

♂ *ad.* Similis *C. flavirostri*, Wagl., et *C. rufinæ*, Salvin, sed rostro ad basin flavo, ad apicem nigro: ab illo notæ pulchrè vinaceo, ab hoc pileo et gutture vinaceo distinguenda. Long. tot. 14·0 poll., culm. 0·8, alæ 8·1, caudæ 5·0, tarsi 0·95.

*Hab.* Vina, Huamachuco, N. Peru (*O. T. Baron*).

Dr. BOWDLER SHARPE described as new the following species of African birds:—

## ANDROPADUS LETISSIMUS, sp. n.

♂ *ad.* Colore *Xenocichlæ ictericæ* ex Indiâ, sed præpectore paullulum olivascenti-viridi adumbrato: subcaudalibus olivascenti-flavis, hypochondriis concoloribus, nec lætè flavis distinguendus. Long. tot. 9·0 poll., culm. 0·85, alæ 4·4, caudæ 3·8, tarsi 1·0.

*Hab.* Nandi, Equat. Africa (*F. J. Jackson*).

## PARISOMA JACKSONI, sp. n.

♂ *ad.* Similis *P. lugenti*, Rüpp., sed pileo brunneo, dorso concolore distinguendus. Long. tot. 5·5 poll., culm. 0·5, alæ 2·6, caudæ 2·4, tarsi 0·9.

*Hab.* Mt. Elgon, Equat. Africa (*F. J. Jackson*).

*Obs.* This specimen was referred ('Ibis,' 1892, p. 302) to *Parisoma lugens* (Rüpp.), but the rediscovery of the true *P. lugens* in Southern Abyssinia showed that the Elgon bird was a distinct species, and the describer was indebted to Mr. Ogilvie Grant for drawing his attention to the differences in the two forms.

## EUPRINODES HILDEGARDÆ, sp. n.

♂. Similis *E. schistaceo*, Cass., sed rectricibus externis tantum albo marginatis, haud omninè albis, et pectore

pallidè cervino distinguenda. Long. tot. 4.0 poll., culm. 0.4, alæ 1.8, caudæ 1.75, tarsi 0.6.

*Hab.* Athi river, Masai Land (*Dr. S. L. Hinde*).

*BUBO MACKINDERI*, sp. n.

♀ *ad.* Similis *B. capensi*, sed subtùs maculis magnis nigris triquetris notatus, hypochondriis sparsiùs nigro fasciatis, et maculis nigris triquetris notatis. Long. tot. 22.5 poll., culm. 1.8, alæ 16.4, caudæ 8.2, tarsi 3.25.

♂ *ad.* Similis feminae, sed minor. Long. tot. 21 poll., alæ 14.6.

*Hab.* Mount Kenia, E. Africa (13,000 feet).

Dr. SHARPE also exhibited a series of specimens from the New Hebrides group of islands, procured by Capt. A. M. Farquhar, of H.M.S. 'Wallaroo,' and recently presented by him to the British Museum. Many rare species, such as *Aplonis rufipennis*, Layard, were represented in the collection, and the following, which appeared to be new, were described:—

1. *LALAGE FLAVOTINCTA*, sp. n.

Similis *L. banksianæ*, sed pectore toto, uropygio, secundariis intimis, tectricum et rectricum apicibus pulchrè flavis. Long. tot. 6.2 poll., culm. 0.7, alæ 3.0, caudæ 2.3, tarsi 0.85.

*Hab.* Ins. 'Espiritu Santo' dictâ.

2. *RHIPIDURA SANCTA*, sp. n.

Similis *R. verreauxi* ex Novâ Caledoniâ, sed pileo et facie laterali nigricantibus, gutture et præpectore griseo-albidis, hoc sparsiùs nigro maculato distinguenda. Long. tot. 7.5 poll., culm. 0.65, alæ 3.1, caudæ 3.5, tarsi 0.9.

*Hab.* Ins. 'Espiritu Santo' dictâ.

3. *CLYTORHYNCHUS GRISESCENS*, sp. n.

Similis *C. pachycephaloidi*, sed loris, facie laterali, gutture et præpectore griseo-fulvis distinguendus. Long. tot. 8.8 poll., culm. 0.95, alæ 3.4, caudæ 3.05, tarsi 0.7.

*Hab.* Ins. 'Espiritu Santo' dictâ.

4. *CLYTORHYNCHUS VATENSIS*, sp. n.

Similis *C. pachycephaloidi*, sed rostro longiore, loris et facie laterali fusciscentibus, minimè nigris, subcaudalibus

albido marginatis distinguendus. Long. tot. 7·5 poll., culm. 1·05, alæ 3·6, caudæ 3·3, tarsi 0·9.

*Hab.* Ins. 'Vaté' dictâ.

5. GLYCIPHILA NOTABILIS, sp. n.

Staturâ *G. fasciata* (Forst.) ex Novâ Caledoniâ, sed gastræo pallidè cinereo, corporis lateribus cinerascentibus, brunneo striatis, distinguenda. Notæo brunneo, concolore, pileo nigricante, supercilio punctatim albo-maculato, facie laterali quoque nigricante, minutè albido punctulatâ insignis. Long. tot. 7·5 poll., culm. 1·3, alæ 3·5, caudæ 2·95, tarsi 1·2.

*Hab.* in ins. 'Vanua Lava' dictâ.

6. HALCYON FARQUHARI, sp. n.

Similis *H. leucopygio*, sed uropygio ultramarino dorso concolore distinguendus: torque collari albo: pileo nigro, fasciâ superciliari supra-paroticâ ultramarinâ: gutture toto et colli lateribus albis: præpectore et gastræo reliquo aurantiaco-cinnamomeis. Long. tot. 8·2 poll., culm. 1·5, alæ 3·45, caudæ 2·3, tarsi 0·5.

*Hab.* Ins. 'Malikolo' et 'Espiritu Santo' dictis.

*Obs.* Ad sectionem Alcedinidarum '*Cyanalcyon*' dictam referendus, et forsân *Cyanalcyon farquhari* nuncupandus.

Mr. SCLATER gave a short account of his recent journey to the Cape of Good Hope, and concluded with the following remarks on some of the birds of the Cape peninsula:—

"In the suburbs of Capetown and in the immediate vicinity of that city, where I spent the greater part of my short stay in South Africa, birds, it must be confessed, are by no means abundant, either in species or in individuals. Although I was always on the look out for them and made short excursions into the surrounding country nearly every day, mainly for the purpose of observing them, I did not succeed in recognizing positively more than from 20 to 25 species, and of some of these I saw but very few examples.

"The commonest and most pervading bird in Capetown and its vicinity at the time of year when I was there (September and October, answering to our March and April) was certainly the Cape Dove (*Turtur capicola*). The some-

what harsh and grating love-call of this species could be heard at all times of the day, both in the city and suburbs, although it was not always easy to discover the exact position of the utterer. The call is something like the three syllables 'kah-kay-whooh,' with the last note much prolonged. The bird was evidently intending to breed everywhere, like our Wood-Pigeon in the parks of London and Paris. I also occasionally saw and heard a rather smaller Dove with a much softer and quite different call, which I take to have been *Turtur senegalensis*.

"The other birds that I most frequently noticed in the gardens at Capetown were the Cape Sparrow (*Passer arcuatus*), the Cape Wagtail (*Motacilla capensis*), and the Collared Shrike (*Lanius collaris*).

"The Cape Sparrow is certainly not nearly so abundant as its British representative in London, but seems to have nearly similar habits. It was commencing to breed in the gardens, and builds nests similar to those of its European ally. The Cape Wagtail may be seen pursuing insects on the well-kept grass-plots surrounding the Parliament House, and is quite tame and familiar.

"The Collared Shrike, which I saw every day on passing through the Municipal Gardens up to the Museum, shows its pied plumage well amongst the green foliage of the trees. It is a most ferocious little villain, and if care is not taken it will enter the verandas and kill the pet birds there suspended in their cages. Two instances of the death of canaries in this way occurred during my stay in Capetown.

"The Olivaceous Thrush (*Turdus olivaceus*), the 'Sprew' Starling (*Amydrus morio*), the so-called Cape 'Robin' (*Cosypha caffra*), and the Bakbakiri Bush-Shrike (*Laniarius bakbakiri*) are four other species that are occasionally seen in the gardens of the town and suburbs, but I should not call any one of them abundant. The Olivaceous Thrush picks about on the ground like our Song-Thrush, and the Bush-Shrike has somewhat similar habits, but attracts attention by a variety of sweet whistling notes and is said to have imitative faculties.

“A loquat-tree (*Photinia japonica*) with ripening fruit is the most likely place to see the Cape Bulbul (*Pycnonotus capensis*). The ridiculous claim of this bird to figure in the British List should be scouted by all sensible persons. It is a strictly local South-African species and does not range far north.

“The pretty Yellow Weaver-bird (*Sitagra capensis*) I was delighted to find busy in constructing its excessively neat hanging nests in many gardens of the city and suburbs. One small community had selected a willow-tree close to the Public Library, near the celebrated Oak-walk, for the purpose. I never failed to stop as I passed by every day to admire the sprightly and active way in which these little birds exercised their craft. In another spot the ill-advised builders had selected a bunch of papyrus-stalks in an ornamental pond for the seat of their operations. So soon as the nest was complete the weight of the structure broke the papyrus down, and caused the fall of stalk and nest into the water beneath. But the indefatigable birds would take no heed of this event, and commenced their fruitless work again on an adjoining stalk.

“In a garden at Sea-point, the marine suburb of Capetown, I was much delighted, on an afternoon in September, to witness the proceedings of a small flock of Colies (believed to have been *Colius capensis*). They were creeping about in a small tree-like shrub, and having searched it thoroughly through proceeded to another. Their curious mouse-like climbing antics and the positions assumed are known to us from captive specimens in the Regent's Park, but this was my only opportunity of witnessing their evolutions in a natural condition. As the eggs of this isolated form—one of the most distinctive Ethiopian types of bird-life—are not well known, I beg leave to exhibit some specimens of them.

“On the margin of the pond on Sea-point Common I also noticed specimens of a Pipit (*Anthus* sp. inc.) and a small Shore-Plover (*Ægialitis*), but could not be certain as to the species.

“Two ascents of the well-known and most picturesque

mountain which rises to a height of some 2500 feet above Capetown, introduced me to several birds which I had not seen below. The splendid *Protea*-shrubs just coming into flower were the resort of two forms of bird-life which were quite new to me *in natura*. These were the long-tailed *Promerops cafer*—another exclusively Ethiopian type—and the Sun-birds (*Anthobaphes* and *Cinnyris*). *Promerops* appears to have been modified specially to feed on the nectar of the species of *Proteaceæ* which are so abundant on the hills of Southern Africa, but, no doubt, it also avails itself of the insects attracted to the same flowers. On Table Mountain I also observed specimens of a very fine Rock-Thrush—*Monticola explorator*, I believe—and an occasional Crow (*Corvus scapulatus*). Of the latter a single specimen appears to have taken up its abode in the garden of Groot Schuur, in the society of the Rooks which Mr. Rhodes has lately imported from Europe.

“On the Cape Flats just outside Capetown the Secretary-bird (*Serpentarius secretarius*) still builds its nest every year, though I did not myself see it in this locality. A pair of young Secretary-birds now in the Museum Grounds at Capetown were obtained here in 1898, and two eggs were taken from the same nest on the 15th October this year. It is curious that our familiar Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) inhabits the ‘vleys’ in the same district, and that the Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) is a regular breeder there.

“Finally, I may mention that enormous flocks of the Dominican Gull (*Larus dominicanus*) and the Cape Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax capensis*) frequent the harbour of Table Bay, and are accompanied by small parties of the Cape Penguin (*Spheniscus demersus*). Outside the harbour the ships are likewise attended by numerous Giant Petrels (*Majaqueus æquinoctialis*) and occasional Albatrosses (*Diomedea melanophrys*).”

Mr. E. BIDWELL exhibited an egg of the Great Auk (*Alca impennis*), which had been lent to him by Mr. Henry Stevens, to whom it had that day been consigned for sale,



At the moment nothing was known of its history, but particulars would shortly be forthcoming and would be contributed to the 'Ibis.' This egg was undoubtedly the handsomest example of the 'zoned' type in existence. Its discovery brought the number of known eggs of the Great Auk to 72.

MR. E. LORT PHILLIPS exhibited several interesting species of birds obtained during his expedition to Somali Land in the spring of 1899, among them being four examples of *Francolinus castaneicollis*, Salvad., obtained on Mt. Wagga. The egg of *Spreo superbus* was obtained during the expedition, and proved to be perfectly blue, without any spots.

MR. CHARLES HOSE, whose reappearance, after six years' absence in Borneo, was warmly greeted by the members of the Club, exhibited some rare birds obtained by him. Among them was a specimen of *Botaurus stellaris*, hitherto unrecorded from Borneo; a pair of *Pitta cærulea* with the nestling (showing that the species was indigenous to Northern Borneo); and examples of *Baza borneensis* and *Spizaetus alboniger*, affording an extraordinary instance of mimetic colouring in the plumage of the two species.

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No. LXVIII. (January 31st, 1900).

THE sixty-seventh Meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 17th of January, 1900. *Chairman*: P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S. Thirty-six Members and fourteen guests were present.

DR. BOWDLER SHARPE described the following species from the Mackinder expedition to Mt. Kenya:—

1. HYPHANTORNIS CAMBURNI, sp. n.

♀. Similis *H. vanthopi*, sed minor, subtus lætiùs flava: supercilio flavo paululum conspicuo, sed rostro multo

minore præcipuè distinguenda. Long. tot. 6·5 poll., culm. 0·7, alæ 3·3, caudæ 2·5, tarsi 1·1.

*Hab.* Mt. Kenya, British East Africa.

2. PINAROCYROA ERNESTI, sp. n.

*P.* similis *P. hypospodice*, Shelley, sed suprâ saturatio: subtùs isabellino-brunnea nec grisescens, gutture tantum cinerascens: subalaribus et axillaribus rufescentibus distinguenda. Long. tot. 5·7 poll., culm. 0·6, alæ 3·1, caudæ 1·85, tarsi 1·2.

*Hab.* Mt. Kenya.

3. CAMPOThERA HAUSBURGI, sp. n.

Similis *C. tenuiolemati*, Reichen. & Neum., sed clarius viridis, et faciei gastræique fasciis tenuissimis et pallidioribus distinguenda. Long. tot. 7·0 poll., culm. 0·85, alæ 4·35, caudæ 2·55, tarsi 0·8.

*Hab.* Mt. Kenya.

Mr. W. R. OGILVIE GRANT described the following new species from the Five-finger Mountains, in the interior of Hainan, collected by the late Mr. John Whitehead:—

1. SIPHIA HAINANA, sp. n.

*Adult male.* Allied to the male of *S. pallidipes*, Jerd., but much smaller—the blue on the upper parts darker and brighter, the forehead and superciliary stripes bright cobalt-blue, and the flanks and sides of the belly grey, slightly washed with fulvous.

Total length 5·0 inches, culmen 0·6, wing 2·65, tail 2·3, tarsus 0·65.

*Adult female.* Differs conspicuously from the female of *S. pallidipes*, the general colour of the head and upper parts being darker and more uniform, the upper tail-coverts and outer webs of the tail-feathers olive-brown tinged with rufous instead of chestnut, and the colour of the throat, fore-neck, and chest pale rust-colour instead of deep orange-rust.

Total length 5·0 inches, culmen 0·6, wing 2·6, tail 2·15, tarsus 0·65.

2. *HARPACTES HAINANUS*, sp. n.

*Adult male.* Differs from the male of *H. erythrocephalus*, Gould, in having the head and nape uniform dull purplish crimson and the upper parts much browner, especially the mantle and upper back; the lower back, rump, and upper tail-coverts only being washed with chestnut; the lower part of the chest next the white band dull crimson instead of scarlet-crimson; and the white tips to the outer tail-feathers shorter, the longest scarcely exceeding 1.1 inch.

Total length 12.0 inches, wing 5.5, tail 6.0.

*Adult female.* Differs from the female of *H. erythrocephalus* in having the general colour of the upper parts and chest much browner.

Total length 12.0 inches, wing 5.3, tail 5.7.

Mr. GRANT also described the following new species from Southern China, collected by Capt. A. M. S. Wingate:—

1. *SITTA YUNNANENSIS*, sp. n.

*Adult male.* Most nearly allied to *S. montium*, La Touche, from which it is at once distinguished by its much more slender bill and the entire absence of chestnut from the sides, flanks, and under tail-coverts, which are uniform greyish buff, like the rest of the underparts. Iris brown.

Total length in the flesh 4.5 inches, culmen 0.65, wing 2.8, tail 1.5, tarsus 0.65.

*Hab.* Near Wei-yuan, Southern Yunnan, 12th March, 1899.

2. *PHYLLOSCOPUS SUBAFFINIS*, sp. n.

*Adult male and female.* Differ from *P. affinis*, Tickell, in having the terminal half of the lower mandible, as well as the legs and feet, very dark horn-brown; the underparts strongly washed with dull fulvous; the clear yellow of the underparts, so conspicuous in *P. affinis*, being merely indicated on the middle of the breast and belly. The species resembles *P. affinis* in the shape of the wing, the second primary being about equal to the tenth. Iris black.

Total length in the flesh 4.5 inches, culmen 0.5, wing 1.95–2.05, tail 1.8, tarsus 0.75.

*Hab.* Pu-an-ting, South-west Kwei-chu, 27th January, 1899.

3. *SIVA WINGATEI*, sp. n.

*Adult male.* Allied to *S. cyanuroptera*, Hodgs., and *S. sordida*, Hume. It resembles both in the general colour of the upper parts, the grey of the head and neck, shading into olive-brown on the back and fulvous on the rump and upper tail-coverts. It further resembles *S. cyanuroptera* and differs from *S. sordida* in having the chin, throat, sides, and flanks washed with vinous grey. It differs from *S. cyanuroptera* and resembles *S. sordida* in having no white tips to the bastard wing-feathers. From both it differs in having only the inner webs of the outer pair of tail-feathers white to the tip; moreover, the feathers on the forehead, lores, and chin are strongly washed with rusty pink, though it is just possible that this colour may be due to stain. Iris brown.

Total length 6·0 inches, culmen 0·6, wing 2·5, tail 2·5, tarsus 0·9.

*Hab.* Near Yunnan city, E. Yunnan, 27th February, 1899.

Mr. GRANT further described three additional new species from Southern Abyssinia, collected by Mr. H. Weld-Blundell and Lord Lovat:—

1. *DENDROPICUS SIMONI*, sp. n.

*Adult male.* Allied to the male of *D. zanzibari*, Malh., but easily distinguished by the following characters:—The forehead and fore part of the crown are darker brown; the cross-bars on the interscapular region and back indistinct and of a dull greenish-white colour; the wing-coverts brownish black, the lesser and median with a white spot at the extremity; the white feathers of the sides of the head and ear-coverts *striped with black on either side*, those of the throat with narrow black shaft-stripes; the chest and breast more strongly marked, and the *upper surface* of the shafts of the primary and secondary quills, except the extreme basal portion, *brown*. Iris brown; bill dark slate; legs slate.

Total length about 5·5 inches, culmen 0·7, wing 3·2, tail 1·6, tarsus 0·6.

*Hab.* Konduro, Abyssinia, 25th March, 1899.

2. INDICATOR LOVATI, sp. n.

*Adult female.* Resembles *I. minor*, Steph., in the colour of the upper parts, wings, and tail, but differs from that species in having the heavy black monstachial streaks confluent on the chin; the throat dull grey, with a slight greenish tinge, uniform in colour with the breast; and the longer flank-feathers dark smoky brown, edged with white on the sides.

From *I. conirostris* (Cass.), which it approaches in the latter characters, it may be at once distinguished by the greyish-brown colour of the head and neck and the much duller yellow colouring of the back and wing-coverts. Iris brown; bill and legs black.

Total length about 6·0 inches, culmen 0·5, wing 3·5, tail 2·25, tarsus 0·55.

*Hab.* Gelongol, Abyssinia, 13th March, 1899.

3. LISSOTIS LOVATI, sp. n.

*Adult male.* Most nearly allied to *L. melanogaster* (Rüpp.), which it resembles in general appearance, but the middle three-fifths of the outer webs of the secondary quills are pure white to the shaft. In this respect it approaches *L. hartlaubii* (Heugl.), but the differently-marked plumage of the upper parts, as well as the black rump and tail, serve to distinguish the latter species at a glance. Iris pale yellowish brown; bill dark; legs pale yellowish white.

Total length about 23·0 inches, culmen 1·95, wing 13·8, tail 7·6, tarsus 5·1.

*Hab.* Bilo, Abyssinia, 10th March, 1899.

Mr. ERNST HARTERT exhibited two hybrids of Humming-birds. One, obtained in Ecuador by Mr. Simons, combined in a striking way the shape and colours of *Eugenia imperatrix* and *Heliodoxa jacula jamesoni*, both found in that country; another, obtained by Mr. O. T. Baron in California, was intermediate between *Calypte costæ* and *Stellula calliope*.

These specimens are to be described in detail in the 'Novitates Zoologicae.'

The Hon. WALTER ROTHSCHILD made some remarks on the *Lalage* of the Samoan Islands, which he proposed to call

*LALAGE SHARPEI*, sp. n.

Bill yellow, tip brownish, upper surface greyish brown, sides of rump white, remiges deep brown edged with dirty white. Tail deep brown, all the feathers except the central pair tipped with white, the two outer pairs white for the apical third. Underside white, with many pale brown cross-bars on sides of breast and flanks; under tail-coverts white; under wing-coverts creamy white. "Iris white." Wing 77-81 mm., culmen 19-20, tail 55-60, tarsus 21.

*Hab.* Upolu, Samoa.

Mr. Rothschild observed:—"Dr. Sharpe was the first to draw attention to this bird (Cat. B. iv. p. 98), but he considered it to be the young of the *Lalage pacifica*. However, the young examples of that species now exhibited from the same place prove it to be quite distinct, being dark brown above and heavily barred below. I am convinced that the type of my new species is fully adult, and that the immature plumage will prove to be equally distinct.

"The bill of *Lalage sharpei* is longer, narrower, and more flattened than in *L. pacifica*."

The Hon. WALTER ROTHSCHILD exhibited and remarked on some specimens of typical *Cracticus quoyi*, Lesson, from New Guinea, and also on three specimens of what had hitherto been called *C. quoyi* from Queensland. In the bird from New Guinea the young was black, like the adult, while in the Queensland bird the young was reddish brown and striped. The latter had been lately described as a new species under the name of *Cracticus rufescens*. It was by no means definitely ascertained whether these rufous birds were the only form of the young on the Australian continent, and therefore Mr. Rothschild did not wish to decide as to the validity or otherwise of Mr. De Vis's *Cracticus rufescens*; but the fact

that, so far as at present known, the young from New Guinea were always black, showed that we had to deal with at least two distinct races. These birds had been sent to Mr. Rothschild by Mr. Herbert C. Robinson, of Liverpool, who wished them to be exhibited to the Club.

Mr. H. J. PEARSON exhibited, on behalf of Mr. P. Musters, a pair of Lesser White-fronted Geese (*Anser erythropus*), with the eggs, taken by the latter gentleman in the north of Norway.

Mr. P. CROWLEY exhibited some photographs of interesting eggs from his collection.

The remainder of the evening was devoted to an exhibition of lantern-slides of birds and nests.

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No. LXIX. (February 28th, 1900).

THE sixty-eighth Meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 21st of February, 1900. *Chairman*: P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S. Thirty-three Members and six guests were present.

THE HON. WALTER ROTHSCHILD exhibited an example of a new species of Hemipode from North Queensland, sent to him by Mr. Herbert C. Robinson, who had described it as follows:—

TURNIX OLIVII, sp. n.

♀. Most nearly allied to *T. castanonota* (Gould) ♀ and resembling it in general coloration, but differing in its much larger size, in having the forehead grey without white tips to the frontal feathers, and with the superciliaries and sides of the face not conspicuously marked with white; the feathers of the lower neck and breast with a decided wash of oily greyish-green and with slightly indicated bars of dull greyish, without white centres as in *T. castanonota*. "Iris yellow; feet yellow; bill brown" (dull greenish olive in skin).

Total length 183 mm., wing 106, tail 48, culmen 23, tarsus 25.

*Hab.* North Queensland (Cooktown, June 25th, 1899).

The species had been named after its collector, Mr. E. Olive, who is known in Australia as a careful and accurate field-naturalist.

Mr. ROUSSELL also exhibited a specimen of *Geocichla papuensis* of Seebohm, which he had recently received from the Aroa River, British New Guinea. He pointed out the mature characters of the species, which had been originally described from an immature specimen, hitherto unique, in the British Museum.

Mr. HARRY F. WITHERBY exhibited a specimen of *Limosa lapponica* in down, obtained out of a brood of four from a marsh near the Imandra Lake, in Russian Lapland, on the 16th of July, 1899.

Mr. ERNST HARTERT showed some nesting-boxes for the encouragement of birds which breed in holes. The "practical" bird-protection, which was warmly advocated on the Continent by Freiherr von Berlepsch, aimed at furnishing new breeding-places for useful birds, natural food in hard winter-times, and cover and protection against their enemies. The feeding in winter-time was not so easy, and on this subject Berlepsch's book might be read with advantage. The planting of thick bushes, especially those with thorus, and berry-bearing species which were liked by birds, instead of the foreign evergreens and shrubs which only a few birds really loved, was not within the means of every one, and could only be done by landowners who were interested in birds; but the putting up of nesting-boxes was practicable almost everywhere, in gardens, parks, and woods, on a large or small scale. In Germany, nesting-boxes were a very old institution, but they had not met with general approval, because they had not hitherto been quite successful. Now, however, von Berlepsch had invented nesting-boxes like those exhibited, and they were a wonderful success. They were imitations of the holes



made by Woodpeckers, and were readily accepted by birds, especially by Tits. They must, however, be put up properly, and in Berlepsch's book on bird-protection some good instructions were given. Mr. Charles Rothschild and Mr. Walter Rothschild had introduced them on a small scale in various places, and Mr. Hartert hoped to be able to report concerning their success during the next session of the Club, and he trusted that other ornithologists would advocate them. They could be had for about sixpence each, from a firm in Westphalia, who were making them according to Berlepsch's instructions.

Mr. ERNST HARTERT exhibited and explained an instrument invented by Mr. L. Wiglesworth, which he called a "Ratiometer," the object of which was to ascertain the proportions that different-sized specimens (or parts of specimens) bear one to another. Mr. Hartert also announced that Mr. Wiglesworth was experimenting with some other instruments likely to be of use in measuring animals. Mr. Hartert also read some notes by Mr. L. Wiglesworth (who was not able to be present) about the question "How a Bird-skin should be measured."

Mr. HEATLEY NOBLE exhibited a pair of eggs of the Spine-tailed Swift from Nerochinski, and also the nest, eggs, and nestling birds of White's Thrush (*Oreocichla varia*), which had been obtained from Mt. Fuji Yama, in Japan, by Mr. Alan Owston. He considered that these eggs were undoubtedly authentic, and they closely resembled those of the Himalayan *O. dauma*; whereas the nest and eggs obtained by the late Consul Swinhoe, and supposed by him to have been those of White's Thrush, probably belonged to *Merula mandarina*.

Mr. WALTER GOODFELLOW described a new species of Humming-bird, discovered by himself and Mr. Claud Hamilton during their recent travels in Ecuador;—

## HELIANTHEA HAMILTONI, sp. n.

*H.* similis *H. lutetiae*, sed maculâ frontali aureo-viridi, et gastræi nitore metallico bronzino-viridi, plagâ alari pallidâ cinnamomeâ, nec albicante, distinguenda. Long. tot. 5·0 poll., culm. 1·6, alæ 2·9, caudæ 1·7, tarsi 0·2.

*Hab.* Papallacta, near Antisana, E. Ecuador.

Of this species Mr. Goodfellow had procured, in February 1899, a series of both male and female specimens, all of which were perfectly constant as regards the characters mentioned above. All the birds from the western slope of the Andes of Quito proved to be the true *H. lutetiae*, of which the travellers had also procured a good series.

Dr. BOWDLER SHARPE exhibited another British-killed specimen of the Levantine Shearwater (*Puffinus yelkouanus*), which had been sent by Mr. Charles Smoothy, of Little Baddow, near Chelmsford. The specimen had been obtained at Bridlington Quay, Yorkshire, in October 1898. [*Cf.* Bull. vol. viii. p. xxix.]

Dr. SHARPE exhibited and described a new species of Bee-eater, obtained by Mr. G. L. Bates on the Rio Benito in French Congo:—

## MEROPS BATESIANA, sp. n.

♂. Similis *M. muelleri*, Cass., sed saturatio, facie laterali, colli lateribus et præpectore toto nigris: notæi colore castaneo ubique saturatiore distinguenda. Long. tot. 8·0 poll., culm. 1·4, alæ 3·2, caudæ 2·95, tarsi 0·35.

The specimen from the Benito River differed so much from the figure of the type of *M. muelleri* given by Cassin in the 'Transactions' of the Philadelphia Academy, that Dr. Sharpe had written to Mr. Witmer Stone on the subject. The latter gentleman having assured him that the figure was an accurate rendering of *M. muelleri*, it became evident that not only was the Benito bird distinct, but also the so-called *M. muelleri* from the Gold Coast. This Dr. Sharpe proposed to name in honour of Colonel Northcott, who had done excellent work in the Hinterland of the Gold Coast, and was killed at the Modder River in November last.

## MEROPS NORTHCOTTI, sp. n.

*M. similis M. muelleri*, Cass., castaneus, sed præpectore nigro, pectore ultramarino et abdomine cyanescente distinguenda. Long. tot. 7·1 poll., culm. 1·4, alæ 3·3, caudæ 3·05, tarsi 0·4.

*Hab.* Gold Coast (*Shelley Coll. in Mus. Brit.*).

These species may have to be placed, according to Dr. Sharpe, in the genus *Melittophagus*, in which case they would be called *Melittophagus muelleri*, Cass., *M. batesianus*, and *M. northcotti*. The type of the last species, however, has the central tail-feathers elongated, but all the other specimens known have the tail square.

Mr. W. R. OGILVIE GRANT sent the following description of another new species of bird collected by the late Mr. John Whitehead in Hainan :—

## GARRULAX SEMITORQUATA, sp. n.

*Adult male.* Most nearly allied to *G. pectoralis*, Gould, having the ear-coverts similarly striped. It is, however, much smaller and at once distinguished by the following characters :—The black band surrounding the throat is widely interrupted in the middle, the outer webs of the outer primary quills are brownish buff instead of white, and the tips of the tail-feathers are yellowish buff.

*Adult female.* Differs only from the male in having the white streaks on the ear-coverts more strongly marked.

Iris straw-colour to reddish brown; upper mandible leaden-black; lower mandible and feet leaden-grey.

Total length about 11 inches, culmen 1·25, wing 5·1, tail 4·8, tarsus 1·75.

*Hab.* Five-finger Mts., interior of Hainan.

Mr. GRANT also described a new Shrike from Arabia, obtained by the Percival-Dodson Expedition :—

## TELEPHONUS PERCIVALI, sp. n.

*Adult male.* Like *T. blanfordi*, Sharpe, but rather smaller, the bill especially being not nearly so stout; the fore-neck,

chest, and rest of underparts much greyer, and the rufescent margin to the inner web of the quills, so conspicuous in *T. blanfordi*, barely indicated. Iris brown; bill black; legs grey.

Total length 7·5 inches, culmen 0·88, wing 3·0, tail 3·4, tarsus 1·2.

XX.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

[Continued from p. 217.]

34. *Chapman (F. M.) on the Birds of Greenland.*

[Report on Birds received through the Peary Expeditions to Greenland. By Frank M. Chapman. Bull. Am. Mus. N. H. xii. pp. 219-244 (1899).]

Mr. Chapman reports on three collections of birds made during the recent Peary expeditions to Greenland, and presented to the American Museum of Natural History by Mr. M. K. Jesup. The 'Peary' collection contains 82 specimens obtained at various localities; in the 'Dyche' collection are 244 specimens acquired by Professor L. L. Dyche during the Peary Expedition of 1895; and in the "Figgins" collection are 162 specimens collected by Mr. J. D. Figgins, who was naturalist to the Peary Expedition of 1896. The whole series, comprising about 500 specimens, is referred by the writer to 48 species, none of which—as might have been anticipated—are new to science; but many of them are of great interest, as they are examples of birds in immature plumages or changes of dress which are not often obtained. Mr. Figgins's excellent field-notes are indicated by his initials.

35. *Chubb's Indexes to Hume's 'Stray Feathers.'*

[Stray Feathers, a Journal of Ornithology for India and its Dependencies. Edited by Allan Hume, C.B. Index to Vol. XI., and Systematic and General Index to Vols. I.-XI. By Charles Chubb. London, 1899: Quaritch.]

Mr. Charles Chubb, who is favourably known to all frequenters of the Bird-room of the British Museum, has